

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 185023
ORIGIN ARA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185023

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
FOR CHIEF OF MISSION FROM ACTING ASST SECRETARY BUSHNELL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:AODE, AFSP, APER

SUBJECT: MODE STAFF REDUCTIONS

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR 1453, (3) SAN SALVADOR 3013

1. AS BUREAU PREPARES, WITHIN MODE GUIDELINES, TO MAKE
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT ELIMINATING AMERICAN AND LO-
CAL POSITIONS FROM VARIOUS AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT CEILINGS
THROUGHOUT ARA, WE WISH TO CONSULT WITH YOU ONCE MORE
TO OBTAIN YOUR THOUGHTS AND CONCURRENCES.

.. IN RESPONSE TO MODE REQUESTS SENT TO YOU IN RECENT
MONTHS, YOU IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF AMERICAN AND LOCAL POSI-
TIONS WHICH COULD BE ELIMINATED WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO THE
CONDUCT OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH EL SALVADOR. AS YOU KNOW,
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AT HIS MARCH 13 CABINET MEETING, PRESIDENT CARTER REITERAT-
ED HIS INTENTION TO MAKE A SELECTIVE REDUCTION OF PERSONNEL
SERVING UNDER DIPLOMATIC CHIEFS OF MISSION ABROAD. ACCORD-
INGLY, LETTERS WERE SENT TO THE CONCERNED DEPARTMENTS AND

AGENCIES SUMMARIZING THE STAFF REDUCTIONS YOU RECOMMENDED
AND REQUESTING THAT STEPS BE TAKEN TO BRING ABOUT THESE

REDUCTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HOPEFULLY BY SEPTEMBER 30, 1978. THE PROPOSED STAFF REDUCTION IN QUESTION, AND THE VARIOUS RESPONSES TO THEM SO FAR ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW:

PROPOSED REDUCTIONS

U.S.

AID 2 (ASSISTANT GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
AND HEALTH OFFICER)
PEACE CORPS 1 REGIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER
AGRI 2 (TWO OFFICERS MOSQUITO REDUCTION PROJECT)

AGENCY RESPONSE

AID

AID STATES THAT IN ITS OPINION YOU FAVOR NOT ONLY THE RETENTION OF THE TWO IDI'S IN QUESTION BUT A THIRD AS WELL. THE AGENCY STATES, HOWEVER, THAT THE ELIMINATION OF THESE POSITIONS WOULD CAUSE "CONSIDERABLE CONCERN", SINCE IDI'S LIKE JUNIOR FSO'S ARE THE "LIFEBLOOD OF AID'S PROFESSIONAL WORK FORCE". AID ADDED THAT THESE IDI'S WERE ALREADY ON THE EMPLOYMENT ROLLS AND TARGETED FOR ASSIGNMENT IN EL SALVADOR.

PEACE CORPS
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THE PEACE CORPS CONCURS WITH REDUCTION AND CLAIMS POSITION HAS BEEN ELIMINATED.

AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE CONCURS WITH THE REDUCTION OF 2 POSITIONS BUT REQUESTS THAT THEY REMAIN UNTIL MARCH 1979. THEY STATE THAT THE PAY-OFF OF SEVERAL YEARS WORK IS IMMINENT AND THAT AN INTERRUPTION PRIOR TO MARCH WOULD BE "DISASTROUS" IN TERMS OF LOST INFORMATION.

3. BUREAU WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF YOUR RECOMMENDED REDUCTION OF TWO AID IDI'S TO TOTAL OF TWO IDI'S (REFTEL A) AND THE AUTHORIZED AID STAFFING LEVEL FOR FY-1978 AND FY-1979 (REFTEL B), WHICH INCLUDES THREE AID IDI'S.

4. IN REVIEWING THESE RESPONSES, THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY OVERWHELMING ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF RETAINING THE POSITIONS IN QUESTION. HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR FINAL COMMENTS IN LIGHT OF THE AGENCY

REPLIES. VANCE

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